

## OUR DWELLING PLACE

What beauty lingers in that word dwell! One shade of meaning, and one about which I love to think, is to abide as a permanent resident. Not simply to tarry for the night, not alone to tabernacle for a season, but to put away the staff and the sandals and sit down in peace at home.

We are too apt, I think, to look upon this life as a weary sojourning in a world full of things to trouble and make us afraid. Think a moment of the words of the prophet king. "Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations." Not simply yesterday, nor last year, but but now and always. Do you believe this? Then why not take to ourselves the peace it would bring? We are secure in our place of abode. No rude hand may dislodge us. Why should we spend our time as one living in a house from which he might be sent away tomorrow?

Again, dwell means to cling with fond affection. Are we thus clinging to our dwelling place? Around what are the tendrils of our hearts twining? Around the poor things of this world, or around him who is our sure abiding place? Lord, help thou me to go about my daily round of work for thee, calmly trusting to him who is my sure retreat, ready whenever thou art willing to pass on to that other house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.—Edgar L. Vincent, in *New York Observer*,

## GONE UP IN SMOKE

The United States, alas! uses more tobacco, in proportion to population, than any other nation except Holland. We consume four and a half pounds annually for each inhabitant; the Dutch using seven pounds apiece. Next comes Austria, with nearly four pounds; then Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, all over three pounds; then Sweden, Norway and France, two pounds and over; while England, Italy, Russia and Spain consume between one and two pounds per inhabitant.

Yet, though England uses, comparatively, so small amount, her annual consumption comes to the large figure of £32,500,000, as against only £33,000,000 for wheat. Tobacco, therefore, costs the people almost as much as bread. And, even with so small an average use of tobacco, the effect of it upon boys and young men in England is so marked, and is admitted by all to be so pernicious, that there is a strong disposition toward placing a law upon the English statute books which will forbid the smoking of tobacco in any form by those under twenty-one. It is to be hoped that, if such a law is enacted, the United States, consuming over twice as much tobacco per inhabitant, will see the wisdom of

protecting her young citizens against their double danger.—Forward.

## EMPTY STOCKINGS

Oh, mothers in homes that are happy  
Where Christmas comes laden with cheer,  
Where the children are dreaming already  
Of the merriest day in the year.

As you gather your darlings around you  
And tell them the "story of old,"  
Remember the homes that are dreary!  
Remember the hearts that are cold!

And thanking the love that has dowered you  
With all that is dearest and best,  
Give freely, that from your abundance  
Some bare little life may be blessed!

Oh, go where the stockings hang empty,  
Where Christmas is naught but a name,  
And give—for the love of the Christ-child!  
'Twas to seek such as these that He came.—

*Ellen Manly in Christmas Ladies' Home Journal.*

## Our Young People

## HOW TO PRAY—Luke 11:1-13

*Topic for Jan. 2—(A meeting of preparation for the week of prayer.)*

One of the most gladdening signs of the times is the increasing unity among Christians. We are learning that there can be co-operation without organic unity and that fellowship in a common hope does not preclude fidelity to special principles. There is no longer any excuse for the insane teaching that the churches are a quarrelling iniquitous Babylon from which we should come out. One of the best steps toward co-operation has been the common observance of the week of prayer beginning the first Sunday in January. I fear it is not generally observed among the Brethren churches. It should be and it would be if all pastors realized how it pays to get together with the people in a week of prayer and meditation and heart-searching and consecration—to go deeper than the common cut and dried themes and get a real hold on the secrets and experiences of what F. B. Meyer calls "The blessed life."

The subject of prayer is too big for one lesson and I have divided it into seven lessons that may be used during the whole week of prayer. If the pastor does not take hold and observe it why not the society observe it, or the whole church if there be no pastor?

You will find it helpful to copy the references in your Bible and mark the verses.

## FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING MEETING

1. An historical review. It is instinctive in man to worship and every nation has some sort of religion. The ancient languages have words for prayer which mean to beg for something and their attitude in prayer was generally that of outstretched palms. The thought of reverence, adoration and praise is a later development.

2. The philosophy of prayer. Man becomes like what he worships. Therefore the heathen worshipping sensual gods grow worse and worse. Prayer brings us into touch with the true God, therefore we grow like him. 2 Cor. 3:18. As our will is bent to blend in his, his power is at our command (John 15:7) to supply every need.

3. Christ our example, Luke 11:1. Others had prayed before but no one ever taught how to pray as Christ did. We do not go to failures to learn. Christ had power. In his example we may find the secret of power. Alone, Luke 5:16; Matt. 14:23. Mark 6:46. Reverence, Matt. 26:39. All night, Luke 6:12. Earnestly, Luke 22:44. In faith, John 11:42. With love, Luke 23:34. With obedience, John 8:19; John 17:4. According to the Father's will, Mark 14:36. He gave not a single direction which he did not exemplify in his own life.

## MONDAY EVENING

1. The first step—How to come into the very presence of God, John 4:23, 24. The eyes are for

light, the ears for sound, etc. Only spirit can commune with spirit.

2. Alone with God, Matt. 6:6. Learn the value of kneeling, of closed eyes, of a front seat, etc. "Will recompense," no true prayer is fruitless. "The Father knoweth," no need of repetition, rather pause and ask "is this a real need," if so then be bold.

3. According to his will, 1 John 5:14, 15.

4. In Jesus name, John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23. The name stands for the person. When we take it we must give up our own and bear it worthily. Christ is there to own the name.

## TUESDAY EVENING

1. The prayer of faith, Mark 11:24; 1 John 5:14, 15. Our faith in a promise depends upon the promiser. We should seek not the promise but him who made it. Degrees of faith, Rom. 12:13; 2 Thes. 1:3; 1 Cor. 12:9. Christ's example, John 11:42.

2. The necessity of obedience, 1 John 3:22. Christ's example, John 8:19.

3. The heart of love, Mark 11:25; see also Matt. 5:24, 44, and 18:35; Eph. 4:32; 1 John 4:20; 3:18; 21:23. Christ's example, Luke 23:34.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

1. Prayer and fasting, Matt. 17:19, 21. Prayer is reaching out after God and fasting is letting go of the world. Examples, Moses, Elijah, Christ, Paul, Acts 13:3.

2. The power of united prayer, Matt. 18:19, 20. 1. Agreement. 2. On one thing. 3. In the name. 4. It shall be done. Examples, Pentecost, Paul, Rom. 15:3; II Cor. 1:11, etc.

3. Be definite, Mark 10:51; Luke 18:41; Matt. 9:38. This helps: 1. We must ask in this particular thing God's will. 2. We can mark the answer. Examples, Christ, Luke 22:32. Paul II Cor. 12:8.

## THURSDAY EVENING

1. Persevering prayer, Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8.

2. The certainty of answer to a true prayer, Matt. 7:8; Jas. 4:3.

3. Bear fruit, John 15:16; James 5:16. For the obedient, John 14:16, 21-23; 15:16. Christ's example, John 17:4.

## FRIDAY EVENING

1. Our intercessor, Luke 22:32; John 16:26; Heb. 7:25; John 14:12-13.

2. The surrendered will, Mark 14:36.

3. And consequent boldness, John 17:24.

4. The prayer of our Lord, John 17. 1. He prays for himself, vs. 1-5. 2. For his disciples, to be kept from evil, to be sanctified. 3. For believers, to be in love and unity. "I have given them thy word." We must teach as well as pray for a person.

5. The life of abiding, John 15:7; I Thess. 5:16, 17.

## SATURDAY EVENING

The model payer, Matt. 6:9-13.

Time and space forbid more complete references or comments. The leader can by using a concordance and following the cross references in the Bible find many more passages. If one can have the little book, "With Christ," by Andrew Murray, it will wonderfully illumine the subject. Many of the references given above are from this book.

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## ENON, IOWA

*Dear Evangelist:*—It has come my time to write for your columns and we are glad to write, and all should be, but some how the little Juniors here at Enon seem to be afraid to do so. I wish they would get over that fear.

We are now in the midst of a Bible meeting, conducted by Brothers Gillin and Livengood. Brother Gillin dwells mostly on the Minor Prophets and Brother Livengood on the New Testament. The meetings are